

April 29, 2019

Ms. Ellen Peters
3630 Townsend Drive
Dallas, TX 75229-3805

Dear Ellen,

When I first contacted you about something, I didn't exactly know what to do or what to say- so I am going to lay out this timeline and perhaps it will make sense.

Back in 1946 my father (CWO-4 Joe C. Andrew) was on leave and had gone to his hometown of Miami, Oklahoma. He was walking down the sidewalk when he spotted a vehicle parked and there were 4 people in the car. He took notice right away of one particular person in the back of the car- went to the car and stuck his head in the open window of the back seat and said to the woman sitting there, "My name is Joe C. Andrew and I'm going to marry you". That woman was my Mom (Betty Lou) and sure enough they were married in January of 1947 with Sgt. Rock Merritt being my fathers best man.

But, I digress. Prior to the wedding, Dad borrowed money from a friend in the 508th PIR to be able to get married. Dad knew who this person was (it wasn't Rock) and promised he would pay him back. Years passed and Dad was unable to locate this person who had been so generous as to lend him his hard earned money. Dad knew his name but could not locate him. Dad always kept a \$100.00 bill in his wallet to be able to repay this person. I never knew who this person was and Dad felt guilty that he could not find him to return his money and give him is thanks once again.

Dad died in 2008 with that \$100.00 bill in his wallet and my Mom took that money and placed it in her wallet as a reminder and memento, I found the money in Moms wallet when I was organizing her personal items after she died in 2014 and I placed the \$100.00 bill in my wallet for safe keeping. I never told anyone I had it- not even my brothers or husband. I just took up the torch for my parents.

Now it is time to relinquish the torch and what better way to do so than the 75th Anniversary of the 508th PIR. There aren't that many WWII Vets alive, but for those who are, this small contribution is for you to enjoy. It's given in love, thanks and in memory of my father.

Deborah Massey

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